

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W

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O R 210844Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2951

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, RH, OVIP (SMITH IAN)

SUBJ: SMITH "APOLOGIZES"

REF: PRETORIA 3965

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER FOUR HOUR
MEETING OCT. 20 BETWEEN RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH
AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER:

"THE TWO PRIME MINISTER, SUPPORTED BY THEIR DIFFERENT
MINISTERS PRESENT, HAD CANDID DISCUSSIONS.

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"MR. IAN SMITH RE-EMPHASIZED THAT HIS REMARKS IN A T.V.

INTERVIEW WERE NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO CRITICISE THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, FOR HIS LAUDABLE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN FACT, HE HAD BEEN A WILLING PARTY HIMSELF TO MR. VORSTER'S EFFORTS.

"MR. SMITH, THEREFORE, HAS APOLOGISED TO MR. VORSTER FOR ANY EMBASSASSMENT CAUSED BY HIS REMARKS DURING THE RELEVANT T.V. INTERVIEW, AND ASSURED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO INFERENCE THAT MR. VORSTER HAD IN ANY WAY ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE IN RHODESIAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

"THE RHODESIAN DELEGATION ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED THEIR HIGH APPRECIATION FOR MR. VORSTER'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

"BOTH PRIME MINISTERS HAVE AGREED THAT GENUINE ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO PURSUE POLICIES LEADING TO PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

"THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER INFORMED MR. VORSTER THAT HE IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO INAUGURATE TALKS AIMED AT SOLVING RHODESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS."

END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. COMMENT: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS PLAYED MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT "APOLOGETIC" COMMUNIQUE AS PUBLIC CRO- EATING FOR SMITH. WHEN QUESTIONED BY AMBASSADOR AT DINNER AT RESIDENCE EVENING OCT. 20, SAG DFA SECY FOURIE WAS FAR FROM GLOATING OR ENTHUSIASTIC. FOURIE NOTED SOMBERLY THAT MEETING HAD DEVELOPED AT SMITH'S INITIA- TIVE AND THAT, DESPITE FOUR HOURS OF GRUELING CONVERSA- TION, SAG STILL REMAINS UNCLEAR ABOUT INTENT OF SMITH'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW STATEMENTS, WHAT, IF ANY, NEXT STEPS HE PLANS IN NEGOTIATION EXERCISE AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF HE TRULY WANTS A SETTLEMENT OR NOT. WE EXPECT THAT MORE INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS WILL SEEP OUT IN NEXT CONFIDENTIAL

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FEW DAYS AND WILL REPORT ASAP. END CONFIDENTIAL.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR03993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750364-1074
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751033/aaaabcuv.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 3965
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITH "APOLOGIZES"
TAGS: OVIP, SF, RH, (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006